

## ACC NEWS



## President's Page: Interventional Cardiology (ACCIS '99): Responding to Members' Educational Needs

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An important tenet of the American College of Cardiology is to be a member-driven medical society with the chief priority of continuing the medical education of its constituency. Certainly, the College's history is rich with examples of educational programs and materials that were developed and offered in direct response to the feedback of its members, and with our 50th anniversary commemorative program in full swing, it might seem appropriate for me to take this opportunity to reflect on the College's many achievements. Instead, I urge you to refer to the pages adjacent to this one, where Dr. William W. Parmley so eloquently studies our "roots," as evidenced in both the original and the current ACC mission and objectives.

**Responding to members' needs.** Just as anniversaries present opportunities to look back at achievements, they also encourage us to look to the future. Just two months from now, from March 7 to 10, the College will offer an educational program that is an excellent example of the ACC's efforts to respond to members' needs. The American College of Cardiology Interventional Symposium 1999, or ACCIS '99, was born out of member feedback. When we analyzed the results of the 1996-97 educational Needs Assessment Survey, we learned that a remarkable number of Fellows wanted the College to offer programming specific to interventional cardiology. This information, combined with the fact that 18% of 1997 ACC Membership Profile respondents listed interventional cardiology as their primary profession with 42% performing interventional procedures, led to the development of ACCIS '99, in collaboration with the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions. ACCIS '99 promises to become the most important gathering of its kind.

**Meeting within a meeting.** We are indebted to the members of the ACCIS '99 Planning Committee, led by Drs. John S. Douglas, Jr., and David R. Holmes, Jr., who have skillfully designed a highly focused program that meshes with the

Annual Scientific Session and offers its own rich curriculum covering all of the major topics in interventional cardiology. Achieving this balance was perhaps the biggest challenge the committee faced, but the solution—a meeting within our annual meeting—both expands the range of educational opportunities specific to interventional cardiology *and* preserves core values of clinical medicine expected from the ACC Annual Scientific Session. ACCIS '99 will provide all of the advantages of a large, international, broad-ranging meeting as well as the benefits of a smaller, specialized gathering. I am certain that every one of us—from basic scientists to clinical practitioners and from cardiologists who rely on catheterization for diagnosis to physicians whose patients undergo interventional procedures—will be enthralled by the educational opportunities offered in New Orleans this year.

On Sunday, March 7, I will have the honor of kicking off the ACCIS '99 Opening Plenary Session, which will focus on new frontiers in the subspecialty. During that session, renowned authorities will tackle the topics of vascular gene therapy, radiation for the prevention of restenosis and percutaneous myocardial revascularization (PMR). This session will set the stage for the programming that will follow throughout the day as well as for the specialized interventional track that will be offered with the Annual Scientific Session's eight other topic tracks.

**On site and via satellite.** The ACCIS '99 program is packed with outstanding faculty and programming, including two highlighted abstract sessions, a session devoted to late-breaking trials in interventional cardiology and live case demonstrations. These live demonstrations will be transmitted by satellite to New Orleans from international and domestic sites: Clinique Pasteur in Toulouse, France; Columbus Hospital in Milan, Italy; Scripps Clinic in LaJolla, California; Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; Emory Heart Center in Atlanta, Georgia; Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans, Louisiana; Mid-

American Heart Institute in Kansas City, Missouri; and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. During each demonstration, a panel will be on site and available to discuss the learning points as the procedure is performed. Providing practical, take-home messages is the goal of these live case demonstrations.

Complementing the many "special" features of ACCIS '99 will be educational sessions of the high caliber we have all come to expect from the College. A large internationally recognized faculty will address topics such as coronary physiology and anatomy, procedural and technical problems, device selection, intracoronary radiation, angiogenesis, controversies in interventional cardiology, pharmacology for interventionalists, acute ischemic syndromes and vascular biology.

**Making history.** The ACCIS '99 program reflects the College's decision to assume a central responsibility for accelerating education in interventional cardiology for practitioners

and, by extension, the patients for whom we care. ACCIS '99 is also an ACC history-making endeavor. ACCIS '99 is in a sense a pilot program, which may become a model for other specialty areas in future Annual Scientific Sessions. Dr. Arthur Garson, Jr., ACC president-elect, has headed up a task force charged with implementing one of the College's most important strategic initiatives—evaluating and expanding the Annual Scientific Sessions. The "meeting within a meeting" format of ACCIS '99 may well become a model for the Annual Scientific Session of the new millennium. Planning for ACC '00 is already in progress and it will feature special programming in interventional cardiology, echocardiography and clinical cardiology. The success of the ACCIS '99 may set a precedent for what we expect from the Annual Scientific Session.

I urge you to join us in New Orleans in March. Beginning on Sunday, March 7, with ACCIS '99, and continuing throughout ACC '99, attendees are guaranteed an exceptional educational opportunity.